

REMARKS

Claims 1-81, all the pending claims, are subject to a restriction requirement. Claim 67 has been amended. New claim 82 has been added. Support for new claim 82 can be found throughout the application as filed. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner required Applicants to elect one of thirteen patentably distinct inventions for examination. The Office Action alleges that each of the inventions is distinct because, *inter alia*, "they have no common utility which is based on a shared structural feature lacking from the prior art and disclosed as a basis for that common utility." (Office Action at page 4).

Applicants provisionally elect herein Group I encompassing claims 1-21, 25-29, and 72, "drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide, and a method of use, classified in class 435, subclass 69.1".

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no serious burden would be imposed upon the Examiner by combining several of the groups.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims encompassed by any of the non-elected groups in future divisional applications.

Objections

Claims 30-39, 44, 47, 52, 67, and 68 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim and also alleges that claims 44, 47, 52, 67, and 68 are "not product-by process claims because the processes referred to therein are analytical, not synthetic." Preliminarily, Applicants note that objected claims 30-39, 44, 47, 52 do not fall in the group elected by Applicants, Group I, and, therefore, are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 67 has been amended to depend from new claim 82. Applicants note that new claim 82 includes a synthetic step. Claim 68 depends from claim 67.

Change of Correspondence Address

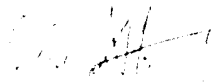
As set forth on the attached "Change of Correspondence Address" form SB-122, Applicants respectfully request that all future correspondence related to this application be directed to:

Gwilym J. O. Attwell
COZEN O'CONNOR, P.C.
1900 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3508
Telephone: (215) 665-2000
Facsimile: (215) 701-2004

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

The examination of these claims and passage to allowance are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (215) 665-6904 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwilym John Owen Attwell

Registration No. 45,449

Date: December 19, 2002

COZEN O'CONNOR, P.C.
1900 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3508
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Facsimile: (215) 701-2004

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 67 as follows:

67. **(Amended)** A purified and isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a nGPCR-2037 allelic variant identified according to claim [66] 82.

Please add new claim 82

82. **(New)** The method of claim 66 further comprising the step of synthesizing or isolating the allelic variant.